



CITY OF BELMONT

FROM: Laurie Shiels, Housing Specialist
Carlos de Melo, Administrative Officer

RE: Resolution Authorizing an Extension of a Professional Services Agreement with Shelter Network to Provide Housing Assistance to Belmont Residents for \$10,000 (FY 2012)

Honorable Chair and Board Members:

Description of Purchase Request

Staff requests that the Board authorize an extension of the Agency's contract with Shelter Network in order to allocate \$10,000 in funding for Shelter Network to continue providing affordable housing services to residents of Belmont during Fiscal Year 2012.

Over the past several years, the Agency has provided funding to Shelter Network to help Belmont residents in need of transitional housing. The Agency typically commits \$10,000 each fiscal year—the same amount requested for FY 2012. Shelter Network provides short-term housing and services for homeless families and individuals, as well as programs that promote self-sufficiency and permanent housing solutions. The attached letter from Shelter Network describes the programs and mission, goals, and objectives for the upcoming fiscal year.

Financial Implications

The total cost of the housing services is \$10,000. The funding source is the LMI "Other Professional Technical" Fund 251-902-8351, "Contracts with Housing Service Providers."

Alternatives

1. Take no action.
2. Deny the purchase request.
3. Refer back to staff for additional information.

Attachments

- A. Implementing Resolution
- B. Letter from Shelter Network, dated February 14, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Shiels
Housing Specialist

Carlos de Melo
Administrative Officer

Greg D. Scoles
Executive Director

Staff Contact:

Laurie Shiels, Housing Specialist
(650) 637-4717
lshiels@belmont.gov

REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EXTENSION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH SHELTER NETWORK TO PROVIDE HOUSING ASSISTANCE TO BELMONT RESIDENTS FOR \$10,000 (FY 2012)

WHEREAS, the City's purchasing policy requires that purchases exceeding \$5,000 must be approved by the Council; and,

WHEREAS, the Agency specifically has a need for those services listed in the attached "Scope of Services" of Shelter Network; and,

WHEREAS, The Agency desires to assist current and future residents of Belmont in securing housing opportunities that meet their economic and social needs; and,

WHEREAS, the Agency desires to encourage a balance between jobs and housing by supporting suitable housing opportunities for the local workforce; and,

WHEREAS, the Agency has allocated funds for the extension of the contract with Shelter Network for FY 2012; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Belmont Redevelopment Agency authorizes an Extension of a Professional Services Agreement with Shelter Network to provide Housing Assistance to Belmont Residents for \$10,000 in Fiscal Year 2012.

* * * * *

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted by the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Belmont at a regular meeting thereof held on March 8, 2011 by the following vote:

AYES, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

NOES, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

ABSTAIN, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

ABSENT, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

Secretary, Redevelopment Agency

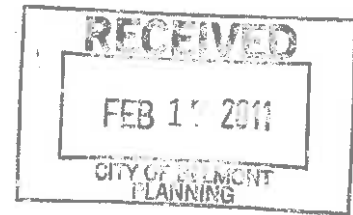
APPROVED:

Chair, Redevelopment Agency



Shelter Network

Leading the Way Back Home



February 14, 2011

Board of Directors

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Executive Director

Karae Lisle

Ms. Laurie Shiels
Housing Specialist
City of Belmont
One Twin Pines Lane
Belmont, CA 94002

Dear Ms. Shiels:

On behalf of Shelter Network, I am pleased to submit this proposal to the City of Belmont, requesting \$10,000.00 of RDA funding for our transitional housing programs. The programs of Shelter Network provide important housing services for low-income families and individuals from Belmont, and we hope to continue our partnership to provide these vital services for Belmont residents. We truly appreciate the support we have received in the past from the City of Belmont, and we value your commitment to helping homeless residents return to permanent homes of their own. ***Last fiscal year, Shelter Network served 45 homeless children and adults from Belmont.***

The continued economic downturn, widespread unemployment, high cost of living, and lack of affordable housing make it more difficult than ever for low-income families to survive in San Mateo County. Moreover, many low-income individuals, often living paycheck-to-paycheck, have been severely impacted by the current economy, which has caused widespread layoffs and unemployment, while the cost of housing has remained high. According to the September 30, 2010 San Mateo County Housing Indicators, the average rent for a one-bedroom apartment in San Mateo County is currently more than \$1,400 a month - more than the total monthly income of a full-time minimum wage worker. In addition, San Mateo County unemployment has remained high. The Employment Development Department (EDD) for the State of California reports unemployment for San Mateo County at 9.2% for January through November of 2010.

Current economic and financial barriers remain particularly challenging for Shelter Network clients in their efforts to find employment and to access and maintain permanent housing. Those industries in which our clients are typically employed, have faced overall job reduction in the last year. The CA EDD reports annual job losses for the region from November 2009 to November 2010 for Leisure and Hospitality, Retail Trade, Accommodation and Food Services, and Construction, among many other fields. In FY 09-10, 42% of Shelter Network's families reported Eviction or Job Loss/Unable to Find Work as their Primary Cause of Homelessness. The very low income population that

Shelter Network serves lives paycheck to paycheck; housing costs in this area make it nearly impossible for these families and individuals to save money to provide a cushion should they lose employment or housing. With no savings, any emergency - whether loss of a job, a medical emergency, or even daycare - can push low income families and individuals into homelessness. The current economic crisis continues to accelerate these emergencies and, likewise, the level of homelessness in our community. City of San Mateo's Consolidated Plan further details the high cost- burden of housing in our community.

According to the 2009 San Mateo County Homeless Census and Survey, there are an estimated 2,712 homeless residents of San Mateo County. The current economic crisis hits the poorest among us the hardest. With no savings, any emergency - whether loss of a job, or a medical emergency - can push low income individuals into homelessness. Demand for housing and services for homeless families in San Mateo County consistently exceeds program capacities. While historically, Shelter Network has maintained a small waiting list for families and individuals, this past year continued to see extraordinary demand for services. We have recently averaged 1,000 calls each week requesting services, and the agency waiting list averages 40 families.

Shelter Network is dedicated to helping these homeless families and individuals stabilize their incomes and regain their places as productive members of our community. At our short-term shelters, families and individuals find an immediate place to stay and a full range of support services for up to two months. Our mid-term transitional programs provide two to four months of stable housing, coordinated case management, and comprehensive support services, allowing us to help transition homeless parents, children and single adults back into a place they can call home. Our results have been impressive: 91 percent of households completing our transitional programs successfully return to permanent housing last fiscal year.

Shelter Network's Redwood Family House, a transitional housing program in Redwood City, and First Step for Families, a short-term shelter and transitional housing program in San Mateo, are dedicated to helping homeless families from Belmont and Central San Mateo County. Homeless single adults from Belmont find shelter at our Maple Street Shelter in Redwood City, which provides both short-term shelter and transitional housing and services.

In fiscal year 2009-10, 10 families and 15 single adults, a total of 45 individuals from the City of Belmont found themselves homeless and turned to our programs for support. In FY 11-12, we anticipate the following outcomes:

- Serve at least 45 residents of Belmont at our family shelters and at Maple Street Shelter for single adults
- Of families completing a transitional housing program, at least 80% will move to permanent housing
- Of single adults, at least 70% of clients graduating the short-term program will enter more stable (transitional) or permanent housing
- Of single adults, at least 75% of clients completing the transitional program to return to permanent housing
- We anticipate that client's median income will increase by 20% between program entrance and exit.

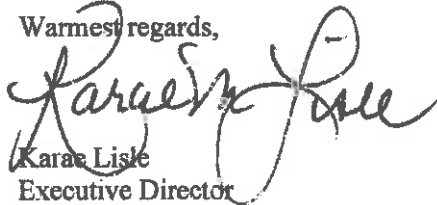
At this time, we request a grant of \$10,000.00 from City of Belmont RDA funding. Our community faces an urgent need for the comprehensive services offered by Shelter Network, at the same time that available funding remains difficult to find. Shelter Network relies on all of the cities whose residents are served by our programs for financial support. Other cities currently contributing to our programs include Redwood City, San Mateo, Palo Alto, Daly City, South San Francisco, Colma, and San Carlos. Your support for our

critical programs is needed now more than ever to ensure that we can continue to provide vital safety net services to homeless Belmont residents who come to Shelter Network for help.

If you would like any further information, or if I can provide a tour of any Shelter Network facility to interested Belmont City Council members, please do not hesitate to contact me at (650) 685-5880 ext. 121 or klisle@shelternetwork.org.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. I look forward to continuing to work with the City of Belmont to help our community's homeless families and individuals build brighter futures for themselves.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karae Lisle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Karae Lisle
Executive Director

Scope of Services City of Belmont

Mission & History

Shelter Network was established to address the growing problem of homelessness on the Peninsula. Our mission is to provide housing and support services that create opportunities for homeless families and individuals to re-establish self-sufficiency and return to permanent homes of their own. Through seven site-based and seven scattered site programs throughout San Mateo County, we provide short-term shelter, mid-term transitional housing, and longer-term transitional housing for homeless families and individuals. By providing stable housing, coordinated case management, and comprehensive support services, we are able to rapidly transition homeless parents, children, and single adults back into homes of their own. With more than 23 years of service to the community, Shelter Network has become the primary provider of housing and services for homeless families and individuals in San Mateo County. In FY 2009-10, Shelter Network served more than 4,300 homeless adults and children, including 865 families and more than 1,700 children, and provided over 179,000 nights of shelter. In FY 2009-10, 91% of households completing a transitional housing program exited to permanent housing, and 93% of those graduating an emergency program went to permanent or transitional housing. The average length of stay for our family programs was 100 days, and for our short-term programs, 44 days.

Program

Shelter Network's short-term shelters provide up to two months of short-term shelter and services, and our transitional programs provide up to four months of transitional housing and comprehensive support services for homeless families from Belmont and throughout San Mateo County. Our programs provide families and individuals with safe housing and all basic necessities, such as food, clothing, toiletries, and baby supplies. Just as importantly, the program offers comprehensive supportive services, to enable families to address the root causes of homelessness and return to self-sufficiency and permanent homes of their own. On-site support services include individualized case management, weekly life-skills workshops, job and housing search assistance, a mandatory savings program, personal finance and budgeting assistance, and a Follow-Up Program for program graduates. A comprehensive on-site Children's Program at our family sites provides one-on-one attention, after school tutoring, and a variety of educational and recreational activities for our youngest residents. At First Step for Families in San Mateo, and Haven Family House in Menlo Park, an on-site therapeutic Child Development Center at First Step for Families provides licensed childcare, specifically designed to meet the needs of homeless children ages eighteen months to five years. Through this comprehensive approach, an outstanding 93% of families, and 81% of single adults completing a transitional housing program last fiscal year were able to move into permanent housing.

Objectives & Outcomes

In FY 11-12, we anticipate the following outcomes:

- Serve at least 45 residents of Belmont at our family shelters and at Maple Street Shelter for single adults
- Of families completing a transitional housing program, at least 80% will move to permanent housing
- Of single adults, at least 70% of clients graduating the short-term program will enter more stable (transitional) or permanent housing
- Of single adults, at least 75% of clients completing the transitional program to return to permanent housing
- We anticipate that client's median income will increase by 20% between program entrance and exit.